

the cell to which it is fixed. These movements continue for a considerable time after the animal inhabiting the cell has been dead. A hollow rounded process, with a hair-like curved and moveable filament projecting from it, is also fixed upon the corresponding part of each cell of the *Cellularia reptans*. These moveable hair-like filaments are analogous to the moveable bird-head process attached to each of the cells of *Flustra avicularis*.—*Proceedings of the St. Andrews' Lit. and Phil. Soc.*, Nov. 1844.

FOOD OF THE AUSTRALIAN NATIVES.

Mr. Hodgkinson, in his 'Australia, from Port Macquarie to Moreton Bay, with Description of the Natives, their Manners and Customs,' &c., gives a somewhat elaborate account of Australian field-sports, and of the Aborigines. On the immediate banks of the MacLeay river, he says, there are no fewer than six distinct tribes; besides several others near the sources of the river among the mountains. All these tribes are able to get an abundance of food with very little trouble, and add the reptile kingdom to the ordinary sources:—

"All the larger varieties of snakes are eaten by them, but they will never touch one that has been killed by a white man. Guanans, and a short thick kind of lizard called the dew-lizard, are also much relished by them. However repugnant the idea of eating reptiles seems to us, it is from a real liking for their flesh that the Australian savages eat them, and not from the great scarcity of better food; for I have on two or three occasions known them, when employed by me in assisting at the cattle-musters, pulling maize, &c., and well-fed on bread and beef, carefully preserve any snake they chanced to kill, and cook and eat it at the next fire. Induced by curiosity, I have on several occasions tasted the flesh of every one of the reptiles just mentioned, and although nothing but the most extreme hunger could make me conquer my aversion so as to dine on them, I must nevertheless own, that not one of them possessed any disagreeable taste. The flesh of the black snake in particular was rich and juicy, somewhat resembling in flavour the flesh of a sucking-pig, whilst that of the guana was whiter and drier, and more approximated to fowl. Besides, these savages are not the only race of men who eat reptiles, for the common water-snake of England (*Natrix torquata*) is eaten in several parts of the continent of Europe; and every one knows that the guana of the West Indies (a much more hideous animal, by-the-by, than the guana of Australia) is considered very good eating by the planters in some of the islands."

MR. SCHOMBURGK'S COLLECTIONS IN GUIANA.

It appears from the report of the Chev. Schomburgk, read at a recent meeting of the Geographical Society, that notwithstanding the great difficulty of conveying collections of natural history over such a country as that traversed by him, and the frequent loss of objects collected with great pains, he has deposited in the British

Museum 2500 specimens of dried plants, 100 specimens of woods, dried fruits, a flower and young leaf of the *Victoria regalis*, and several other botanical specimens preserved in spirits, a collection of bird-skins, upwards of 100 specimens of fishes in spirits, a geological collection, and an ethnological collection. The Royal College of Surgeons has been presented with some skulls, a perfect skeleton, and a number of plaster casts. The model-room of the Admiralty has received a collection of woods; the Royal Garden at Kew several living plants; and presents of curiosities from Guiana have been made to different scientific societies and institutions.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS FOR NOV. 1844.

Chiswick.—Nov. 1. Overcast: boisterous. 2. Constant heavy rain: boisterous at night. 3. Cloudy and fine. 4, 5. Cloudy. 6. Overcast. 7. Rain: cloudy. 8. Overcast: heavy rain at night. 9. Hazy clouds: fine: clear. 10. Clear and fine: rain. 11. Densely clouded: fine. 12. Rain: drizzly: boisterous, with rain at night. 13. Heavy rain. 14. Rain. 15. Cloudy. 16. Hazy: clear. 17. Foggy. 18, 19. Overcast. 20. Hazy: clear and fine. 21. Foggy throughout. 22. Hazy. 23. Foggy. 24. Hazy: cloudy. 25. Cloudy and fine. 26. Clear and frosty. 27. Sharp frost: foggy: clear and frosty at night. 28. Foggy: cloudy. 29. Easterly haze: foggy. 30. Overcast.—Mean temperature of the month $0^{\circ}85$ above the average.

Boston.—Nov. 1. Cloudy. 2. Stormy: rain P.M. 3. Rain: rain early A.M.: rain P.M. 4. Rain: rain early A.M.: showery afterwards. 5. Cloudy: rain early A.M.: showery afterwards. 6. Rain: rain early A.M.: rain A.M. and P.M. 7. Fine. 8. Cloudy: rain P.M. 9. Cloudy. 10. Fine: rain P.M. 11. Fine: rain early A.M. 12. Cloudy: rain P.M. 13. Cloudy: rain A.M. and P.M. 14. Fine. 15. Cloudy: rain early A.M. 16. Fine. 17—20. Cloudy. 21. Fine. 22. Cloudy: first ice this morning. 23. Cloudy. 24. Cloudy: total eclipse of the moon visible 11 P.M. 25. Cloudy. 26, 27. Fine. 28—30. Cloudy.

Sandwich Manse, Orkney.—Nov. 1. Cloudy. 2. Damp. 3. Bright: clear. 4—7. Fine. 8. Showers. 9—11. Rain. 12. Cloudy. 13. Frost: fine: cloudy. 14. Frost: fine: cloudy: frost. 15. Rain. 16. Rain: drizzle. 17, 18. Cloudy. 19. Bright: hazy. 20. Showers. 21. Bright: cloudy. 22. Bright: clear: aurora. 23. Bright: clear. 24. Clear. 25. Cloudy. 26. Bright: rain. 27. Cloudy: damp. 28. Cloudy: clear. 29. Rain: clear. 30. Bright: clear.

Applegarth Manse, Dumfries-shire.—Nov. 1. Fair: wind high. 2. Very slight shower. 3. Very slight shower: clear. 4, 5. Fair, but threatening. 6. Cloudy and damp. 7. Fair and fine. 8. Dull A.M.: rain. 9. Fair, but dull. 10, 11. Cloudy A.M.: rain P.M. 12. Rain. 13. Fair and mild. 14. Heavy rain: flood. 15. Fair and fine. 16. Fair and fine, though cloudy. 17. Damp: slight shower. 18. Rain P.M. 19. Fair and fine. 20. Fair and fine: frost A.M.: fog. 21. Fair and fine: frost. 22. Slight rain. 23. Fair, but dull. 24. Fair: frost. 25. Fair: slight frost A.M. 26. Fair, but cloudy. 27. Cloudy A.M.: rain P.M. 28. Fair, but dull. 29. Shower. 30. Fine: frost A.M.

Mean temperature of the month	43°·6
Mean temperature of Nov. 1843	41 °7
Mean temperature of Nov. for twenty years	39 °9
Mean temperature of spring-water	47 °0
Mean temperature of ditto Nov. 1843 ...	44 °2